Trade in psychotropic substances

*234. DR.AKHILESHDAS-
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reports of on-line illegal trading to psychotropic substances, smuggling of drugs and opium;

(b) it so, the *modus operandi* adopted for such illicit trade in psychotropic substances and seizures, if any made on the basis of investigations made into such reports; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to prevent the illicit trade?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) Investigations revealed that the *modus operandi* was to get orders for drugs, mainly psychotropic, through the web sites on the Internet and to make the despatches against such orders through EMS speed post to the clients in foreign countries by mislabelling the contents to escape the Customs. Payments for the drugs were received through credit cards. Only one case of on-line illegal trading of psychotropic has been detected so far in which 4 persons were arrested and 2654 tablets of various controlled psychotropic substances were seized.

(c) Misuse of the Internet to provide and sell drugs is an important issued the world over and the 20th Session of UN General Assembly recommended action at the State, regional and international levels to tackle the menace. This issue was also discussed at the 45 Session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs held in Vienna in March, 2002. The Government of India is also seized the problems and has asked the enforcement agencies to keep a close watch on such activities with a view to adequately combating the problem.

Money mobilized by vanishing companies

*235. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state: